

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ALGIER 03227 011222Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 096883

P R 011045Z NOV 75  
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3267

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 3227

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, AG, MO, MA, SP, SS  
SUBJECT: SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN CHARGE ON FISHING EXPEDITION

1. MOROCCAN CHARGE ABDELLATIF MOULINE CALLED ON ME  
OCT. 31 TO DISCUSS SAHARA. MOULINE SAID HE HAD  
INFORMATION FROM RABAT THAT A WESTERN AMBASSADOR IN  
ALGIERS HAD REPORTED ALGERIANS HAD SAID: A. THEY  
WOULD NOT GO TO WAR OVER SAHARA; B. GREEN  
MARCH THREATENED SECURITY OF ALGERIA ITSELF; AND C.  
IMPORTANT STEP WAS SOME SORT OF FACE-SAVING, INTERIM  
SOLUTION IN WHICH INDIGENOUS POPULATION WOULD IN SOME  
WAY BE INVOLVED. F POLISARIO, MOULINE SAID, HAD NOT  
BEEN MENTIONED AS REPRESENTING INDIGENOUS POPULATION.  
MOROCCANS THOUGHT MAYBE THIS MEANT ALGERIAN POSITION SOFTENING.  
COULD I SHED ANY LIGHT ON THIS MATTER?

2. I SAID I WAS NOT WESTERN AMBASSADOR IN QUESTION. NO ALGERIAN  
HAD SAID ANYTHING TO ME ABOUT NOT FIGHTING. MOST OF  
OUR COLLEAGUES THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY ALGERIANS WOULD GO TO WAR OVER  
SAHARA AND THAT THEY WERE MORE LIKELY TO USE OTHER MEANS TO EXPRESS  
THEIR DISPLEASURE, BUT WE COULD NOT RULE OUT ANYTHING AT THIS  
POINT. I HAD BEEN CONVOKED BY SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY  
AND BY BOUMEDIENE IN PREVIOUS 24 HOURS TO HEAR ALGERIAN POSITION  
ON SAHARA AND THEIR LINE SEEMED TO ME TO BE HARDENING RATHER THAN  
SOFTENING. HIS POINTS B AND C, HOWEVER, PROBABLY CAME FROM REMARKS  
BEN HABYLES HAD MADE TO A NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS, INCLUDING ME, (A)  
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THAT ALGERIANS THOUGHT GREEN MARCH POSED A REAL THREAT TO THEM

AND THAT HASSAN'S ULTIMATE TARGET COULD BE MAURITANIA OR ALGERIA, AND (B) THAT THE PROCESS OF SELF DETERMINATION HAD TO BE OBSERVED, WHATEVER THE RESULTS. THIS DID NOT MEAN THEY WOULD ACCEPT A MERE FACE-SAVING MANEUVER. THEY MEANT THERE MUST BE SOME SORT OF REFERENDUM, BUT THAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT THE RESULTS EVEN IF THEY FAVORED MOROCCO.

3. I NOTED THAT US POSITION ONE OF GENUINE NEUTRALITY, BUT ALL OUR FRIENDS EXPECTED US TO SUPPORT THEM. ALGERIANS THOUGHT WE NEUTRAL IN FAVOR HASSAN AND WANTED US TO GET HIM TO TURN OFF HIS MARCH. MOULINE SAID IT WOULD BE SUICIDE FOR HIM TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO. HE COULD NOT DO IT EVEN IF HE TRIED. MOROCCAN PUBLIC STIRRED UP AS NEVER BEFORE AND IMBUED WITH SENSE OF NATIONAL MISSION. THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WHATEVER THE COST. MOROCCANS EXPECTED THEIR RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA TO BE SACRIFICED, AND WERE PREPARED FOR THE WORST. THEY HAD THEIR MINDS SET AND THERE NO STOPPING THEM. IF ALGERIANS WOULD ONLY BOW TO UNITED ARAB OPINION AND SOFTEN POSITION A BIT, SITUATION MIGHT BE SAVED. I SAID IT SEEMED TO ME BOTH SIDES NEEDED SOFTEN IF DIPLOMATIC WAY OUT TO BE FOUND.

4. COMMENT: ABOVE FOR RECORD.PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, AMBASSADORS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ALGIER03227  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750380-0333  
**From:** ALGIERS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 83  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SPANISH SAHARA: MOROCCAN CHARGE ON FISHING EXPEDITION  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, AG, MO, (MOULINE, ABDELLATIF)  
**To:** RABAT  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006